

# ALBERTA CCF ADOPTS PROGRAM

## "Austerity" To Hurt If No Controls

By DORIS FRENCH

OTTAWA (CPA). — Two outstanding features of the new "austerity program," which occupied all Ottawa's attention last week, have come to the fore. Both show the demand for C.C.F. answers to mounting economic problems.

The trade crisis has overwhelmed the usual Liberal tendency to "leave things alone." But on the one hand the measures taken will impose great hardship on the poorer people of Canada if the government does not act to prevent it. And on the other hand the government will fall short of its objective to the exact degree that it hesitates to fully plan and control in the long-range, "constructive" side of program.

Create Shortages

The banning of goods from the United States will create shortages. Inevitably the price of these goods will rise sharply above their already inflated levels. This price rise is already noticeable in a great many household furnishings, in oranges and fruit juice and fresh vegetables, in cars, and in

(Continued on page 8)



**PERSONAL STUFF**  
BY  
**E. E. R.**

The richest reward which comes to compensate those who devote their time and energy in helping to build and maintain any movement which has for its purpose the enrichment of human life, is the comradely friendship of scores of high-minded, great-souled people. Down through the years in which I have been associated with such movements, my own heart has been warmed on many occasions by spontaneous, obviously genuine expressions of affection and trust. But never has the tie that binds friend to friend been more real to me than in the past two or three weeks. I wish it had been possible to put into what must have seemed like formal acknowledgments some of our real feelings of grateful appreciation.

I am sure no one who attended the C.C.F. convention last week, either as a delegate or as an observer, could fail to be impressed by the quality of the discussions, the businesslike conduct of the sessions, the earnest sincerity and confidence of the delegates and the vigor of the Alberta C.C.F. which the gathering denoted. There was representation from every part of the province. Fourteen of the fifteen candidates already nominated for the coming provincial election were in attendance and they impressed everyone with their ability and their determination to go back to their constituencies to do the things that are essential to victory. The program which came out of the panel discussions to which one whole day

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## CCF Convention Elects Officers

Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A. was re-elected by acclamation as provincial leader at the annual convention of the Alberta CCF in the Memorial Hall on Friday afternoon.

An acclamation was also accorded J. E. Cook as president. Mrs. Nellie Peterson was again returned as first vice-president and Harold Bronson, university student, was chosen as second vice-president. Wolfe Margoulis was returned to the treasurer's post by acclamation.

W. W. Scott of Lethbridge and Clifford E. Lee of Edmonton were elected as Alberta representatives on the C.C.F. National Council.

## Candidates



**RAY E. SCHMIDT,**  
C.C.F. candidate for Rocky Mountain House, is a young farmer who takes an active interest in Co-operative, Wheat Pool and A.F.U. activities.



**GEORGE N. DAVIES,**  
who farms in the Lloydminster area is the C.C.F. candidate for Alexandra. He is president of the Lloydminster Co-op, a member of the supervisory committee of the Lloydminster Credit Union, president of the local telephone company and a member of the U.F.A.

## Workers in Grocery Business



The McKeesport, Pa., union hall of the United Steelworkers (CIO) has been converted into a part-time grocery store to help members keep their living costs down. Run on a non-profit basis, the co-operative arrangement helps a little but doesn't solve the real price problem.

## Premier Douglas C.C.F. Government Implements Every Plank in Its Platform

"We weren't elected to make the world a safe place for coupon-clippers and parasites to live in," said Premier T. C. Douglas in addressing an overflow audience at the Masonic Temple on Thursday evening, "but we are in the happy position that when the time comes to go back to our people in Saskatchewan we can say to them, 'you have elected us on a 9-point platform and we have implemented every plank in that platform either in whole or in part'."

The speaker was introduced by A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A.

John Burke was chairman of the meeting and Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A., provincial leader, introduced the following C.C.F. candidate (Continued on Page 8)

## CO-OP UNION ASKS UNAC COMMITTEE

OTTAWA (CPA). — The Co-operative Union of Canada is taking the lead in urging the Canadian government to act in accordance with recommendations of the United Nations Appeal for Children. A national committee representing Canadian welfare agencies would be set up here to conduct the work of the U.N.A.C.

A. B. MacDonald, General Secretary of the Co-operative Union of Canada, recently interviewed Government officials on the matter and has also sought and received the support of the C.L.C., T.L.C. and Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Committees for U.N.A.C. have already been set up in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Finland, Sweden and Greece, while 30 other countries are in the process of forming their committees.

## HIGHER PAY FOR BRITISH NURSES

LONDON, England.—The Minister of Health in Great Britain has taken steps to improve salary scales of nurses under the National Health plan. The new rates, which will benefit some 55,000 nurses and institutional midwives and which will cost an estimated \$750,000, came into effect on Oct. 1st. Half of the extra expenditure will be born directly by the Exchequer.

Higher minimum salaries were put into effect and those who will benefit include matrons of maternity hospitals, ward sisters, staff nurses, assistant nurses, etc. The increases range from £20 to £30 a year. The new rate for ward sisters, for example, ranges from £300 at the minimum, to £380 after eleven years. These compare with the old rates of £280 minimum to £380 after sixteen years.

## Convention Was Highly Successful

Stating its election program in clear and unmistakable terms, the Alberta C.C.F. at its convention on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week went on record as favoring public ownership of natural resources, a well-defined plan for agriculture, equal educational opportunity for every child, a fair deal for labor and adequate social services to meet the needs of the people.

In addition to the 300 delegates and registered visitors, there were a large number of other visitors who followed the proceedings with keen interest.

Realizing that an election would likely take place before another convention was held, the delegates recognized the necessity of being scrupulously honest in drawing up an election program every plank of which could be instituted by a C.C.F. government. And as a token of their faith in the movement the delegates on the second day of the convention pledged some \$3,000 in cash and pledges for the campaign fund. Before adjourning on Saturday the delegates also pledged themselves to go out and collect \$2,600 from members and sympathizers in their communities. It was announced that \$3,000 had also been collected at nominating conventions held recently. Thus did the delegates respond to President J. E. Cook's call to declare their desire for service to the movement.

Premier T. C. Douglas and A. (Continued on page 2)

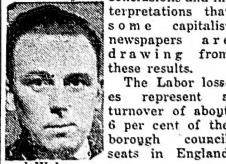
## 89 BOROUGHES HAVE LABOR MAJORITIES

IN ENGLAND, WALES

By Kenneth C. Rathbone

LONDON.—The Labor Party has suffered a net loss of 646 council seats in the recent municipal elections in 392 English and Welsh boroughs, and with results from 65 of the 130 Scottish boroughs now to hand has lost 45 seats in Scotland.

This is a disappointing setback, but one should not take too much notice of the wildly extravagant conclusions and interpretations that some capitalist newspapers are drawing from these results.



The Labor losses represent a turnover of about 6 per cent of the borough council seats in England and Wales.

Still a Big Factor

In the 1945 and 1946 municipal elections the Labor Party gained a total of 1,559 seats in England and Wales, and after the deduc-

(Continued on Page 7)

# C.C.F. Program on NATURAL RESOURCES

Adopted at C.C.F. Convention in Edmonton, November 20-22, as basis for provincial election program.

The panel on natural resources recommends that this convention adopt the following program:

1. That a C.C.F. government shall proceed as rapidly as circumstances will permit to assume complete public or co-operative ownership of all development of the natural resources of the province, except land used for agricultural purposes.

2. As steps towards the achievement of this objective, a C.C.F. government will take the following immediate steps.

## Oil

- On every field where oil in productive quantities has been discovered, the government will reserve, or re-acquire, checkerboarded areas at least equal in size to those leased to private individuals or corporations, to be developed by public ownership.
- Out of the revenue derived from the operation of publicly owned oil wells, there shall be set aside a reserve fund for the conduct of exploratory activities in the province.
- Whenever in the opinion of a C.C.F. government, reserves for exploratory purposes are sufficient to warrant such action, all exploration in the province will be limited to the government authority.
- Royalties now paid by private individuals or corporations on oil produced from Crown lands to be substantially increased.
- For the protection of owners of surface rights, in the case of each quarter section on which a well or wells are drilled, the farmers should, in lieu of acceptance of an arbitrated award for damage to his land, have the option of selling his land to the holder of the oil or natural gas rights on a basis of appraisal value, plus 50% thereof for severance, plus 1/2 thereof for compulsory taking.
- The ultimate of the C.C.F. program is to place the entire oil industry, with the exception of retail branches, under public ownership.

## Farm Ownership

That this convention reiterate the principle laid down by the C.C.F. in the Regina Manifesto: that the family farm be recognized as the accepted basis of agricultural production and that security of tenure for the farmer on his farm be provided by a provincial C.C.F. government.

## Timber

- A C.C.F. government will develop the timber resources of the province in a manner to provide for proper conservation and to give the people of the province the greatest possible return from their timber reserves, and to this end will encourage co-operative lumbering operations, under supervision of expert foresters who are to select what is ready for cutting and oversee adequate and proper reforestation. The worker to be decently accommodated and adequately recompensed. Adequate control of marketing to ensure a fair price to the consumer.
- A C.C.F. government will undertake a complete survey of the timber resources of the province with a view to instituting a long-term policy of scientific conservation and production, employing for this purpose the best qualified forestry experts available in Canada or in countries where forest resources are now being scientifically developed.

## Fish

Encouragement of co-operative fishing operations on lakes and in processing plants under supervision of trained personnel. Adequate hatcheries to promote restocking. Control of disease and salvage. Co-operative marketing and improvement of transportation outlets.

## Furs

Encouragement of the fur producing industry and the establishing of a fur marketing agency through which the trapper or fur farmer may secure the full market value of his product less actual cost of operation of agency.

## Limestone

Immediate development of cement and limestone through public ownership.

## Coal

A C.C.F. government will conduct a survey of the coal resources of the province with a view to efficient production by public ownership; will encourage modern mechanization and foster chemical research into the possibilities of processing coal for by-products.

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## Alberta C.C.F. Executive Officers



The Alberta C.C.F. at its convention last week re-elected: Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A., (front row left) as provincial leader; Mrs. Nellie Peterson, first vice-president; J. E. Cook, president; John King (back row left) was again appointed secretary; Wolfe Margolis (centre back) was re-elected as treasurer and Harold Bronson, second vice-president.

# ALBERTA C.C.F. ADOPTS PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)  
M. Nicholson, M.P. spoke at the convention in addition to addressing the public meeting on Thursday evening.

On Friday morning the delegates divided up into five panels on Agricultural policy, social legislation, labor legislation, education, and development of natural resources. Saturday morning these panel reports, which will form the basis of the election program, were presented to the convention for discussion and amendment. (They will be presented in detail in future issues of the People's Weekly).

## Natural Resources

The panel on natural resources, which was headed by Elmer E. Roper, declared that "a C.C.F. government shall proceed as rapidly as circumstances will permit to assume complete public or co-operative ownership of all development of the natural resources of the province, except land used for agricultural purposes."

It set out also the C.C.F. policy in regard to oil, farm ownership, timber, fish, furs, limestone and cement and coal. The report as endorsed by the convention is reproduced in full on page two.

## Agricultural Program

Presented by Robert Carlyle, the panel on agriculture, recognized that while little could be done by any provincial government to obtain higher prices for farm products, it could do a great deal to assist farmers in reducing production costs and increasing the efficiency of their operations.

Under rural electrification, the agricultural program called for purchase of private power companies and establishment of a provincial system of electrification; rural lines built at no direct cost to the farmer and service extended as rapidly as possible to all rural areas where feasible.

The convention favored the lowering of municipal taxes through the assumption of total cost of welfare work by the provincial and federal governments; larger provincial grants for market and local roads; an equalized mill rate for necessary minimum of school services throughout the rural areas of the province; 50 per cent of the cost of education to be paid by the provincial government. The delegates endorsed a pro-

posal for farm security legislation similar to that introduced in Saskatchewan carrying the principle of "postponement of mortgage payments in case of crop failure" and "cancellation of interests."

The convention endorsed the panel suggestion for a parity prices fact-finding board and plans for agricultural research and extension work as well as soil, water and forest conservation proposals.

It called for the establishment of a department of co-operatives in the government and also agreed that the major farm organizations of the province be requested to co-operate in the appointment of standing committees to advise the government on their various problems.

## Education

The convention pledged a C.C.F. government in Alberta to bend every effort to achieving the following educational objectives:

- To give every child in the province equal educational opportunity;
- To assume as a provincial responsibility within two regular sessions of taking office, fifty per cent of the cost of elementary and secondary education together with a continuation of equalization grants to school divisions and districts;
- To take whatever constructive steps are necessary to provide an adequate qualified teaching staff;
- To encourage districts and divisions to improve their physical "plants" by increasing government grants in aid of building and other capital expenditures;
- To strive for an even more diversified curricula suited to the interests and needs of Alberta's varied occupational groups, e.g. by encouraging the building of composite High Schools and necessary residences;
- To recognize the bearing which our road building program has on the achieving of our educational goals.
- To encourage all interested educational groups such as Home and School organizations to help in formulating our educational objectives.
- To revise the teacher pension plan to bring it in line with that of the civil servants.
- To set as its ultimate educa-

tional goal the developing in Alberta of a thinking, intelligent, responsible and happy citizenry.

E. E. Spencer was chairman of this panel.

## Labor Program

Establishment of a provincial department of labor with a cabinet minister in charge was a proposal which received the enthusiastic endorsement of the convention as did the suggestion for a provincial labor relations board similar in form to that of the Province of Saskatchewan. Other proposals suggested by this panel and endorsed by the convention included: a national labor code; requirement that every employer bargain with the trade union which has been properly certified as representing the majority choice of his employees; simplification of certification; outlawing of company unions; protection for union activity; prohibition of unfair employer tactics; a labor relations board to enforce trade union act; minimum wage law establishing rates of pay commensurate with the cost of living; equal pay for women doing equal work; two weeks holiday with pay to all employees completing one year continuous service; hours not to exceed 44 hours per week; 75 per cent compensation for injured workmen, increased payments to dependents.

Alderman Earl Smith of Medicine Hat was chairman of the labor panel.

## Social Services

A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., was chairman of the panel on Social Services which recommended that a C.C.F. government provide complete and free medical aid for old age pensioners, blind pensioners, recipients of mothers allowances and disabled persons. It called also for free hospital services with free medical services also as an ultimate goal. Subsidized low rental housing was endorsed as was also public and co-operative ownership of such building materials as can be produced in the province. The convention recommended that an Alberta C.C.F. government operate an automobile insurance scheme similar to the one now in operation in Saskatchewan; adequate care and administration for delinquent and neglected children; complete reorganization of the provincial child welfare department; increased mothers' allowances.





CHANGING COLORS

In 1935 and two subsequent provincial elections the Social Credit Government received the hearty support of the industrial workers of Alberta. The lopsided government majority makes that obvious. This generous support was given to Social Credit because the wage-earners and their families believed a better deal for labor was in store for them by what they mistook for champions of the common people. They expected labor legislation that would give them more social security, some protection for their unions and "teeth" in legislation concerning the labor code. Plus \$25.00 per month in social dividends, of course.

How disappointed are these loyal people can be judged by the appeals organized labor is still making to the government after 12 years in office. Only a week ago I attended a provincial conference of coal miners, lumbermen, packing house workers, railroad men and construction workers affiliated with the Canadian Congress of Labor. They are still seeking establishment of a labor department with cabinet ministers in charge. They are still asking reason to compensation rates and adjustments of widows' and orphans' allowances which are shockingly inadequate.

There is no union security legislation worthy of comment. Minimum rates of wages are pitifully low. No equality of pay legislation. The labor code is useless because it has no "teeth" in it. When a vote is taken for bargaining rights those who for any reason fail to cast their vote are counted against the union. It is hard to imagine a more outrageous violation of democratic procedure. But there it is. Labor is still clamouring for the elementary concessions.

Our neighbor province of Saskatchewan has in the course of two years in office met these requests in full. As far as we know no calamity has overtaken our neighbors because labor has been recognized as something more than just a commodity. Organized labor has increased by more than 60% in Saskatchewan, disputes have been reduced to a minimum and the workers are enjoying a measure of security they have never known before. Why not in Alberta? That is what thousands of disappointed wage-earners are asking today.

But they got an answer at the C.C.L. Conference when the Alberta Minister of Trade and Commerce addressed this gathering. He came in person this time. He had nothing to offer but apologies and admonishments. The Minister warned labor to pipe down in their requests. Labor was only a sideline in Alberta, said the Minister, and labor was changing color. Of course everybody knew that the militant labor was going "red" or "bolshevik." He talked of percentages.

Yes, he said, labor must remember that for many years it has been proven that 12% is labor's share of the national pie. Sort of divine law, I suppose. No, he did not say anything about social dividends or just prices. Neither did he speak of "results" as most Social Credit champions do in their propaganda. He was very much upset because labor was "changing color."

Well, you should have heard the comments by some of the coal-diggers and lumberjacks after the session. One delegate turned around and asked me if I would give him a swift kick. "What

# The People Speak

Letters to the editors may be published under a pseudonym, but in each case the name and address of the writer must be forwarded to the editor as evidence of good faith. The People's Weekly takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by correspondents and will not publish any letters exceeding 300 words in length.

## THE RUSSIAN SCARECROW

Editor, People's Weekly.  
Sir: In your "Personal Stuff" for November 8, you enlarge upon the so-called Communist issue in Alberta politics.

As a boy on a farm do you remember the raggedly "scarecrow" which your mother set up in her garden to frighten the birds away? It frightened away a few harmless wrens, orioles and blackbirds, but the daring old crow came up and sat on top of the scarecrow, after he had scratched all the corn out of the row.

Well, this "Russian Scarecrow" which the Social Creditors and others are setting up in the political garden to scare the danger-

for?" I asked. "For being a sap," he replied. "Better give me two kicks—one for my wife, too. We both voted for Social Credit because we honestly believed we were voting for champions of the common working people. Now we are told that we are turning red, changing color. Believe me, brother, when I heard the minister I was seeing red too. I guess we both got fooled by their gibberish about social dividends. My wife thought they must be honest people, because they always quoted the New Testament. I think Mr. Aberhart was sincere, but that is certainly not true of his successors. If anyone has changed color it is our Social Credit Government. I think they are just stooges for the Manufacturers' Association and the Imperial Oil. Well, I have learned my lesson."

I merely chuckled and told him that soon there will be an election and C.C.F. candidate in his riding.

ous birds away is just like that old rascal.

A few timid people will listen and run away. But the serious-minded thinker who is familiar with facts and figures will walk right up and sit on top of this Russian bogie-man.

Russia has done a few things of which the C.C.F. nor any other political party need be ashamed.

She has destroyed the double standard of morals for men and women, the man is now just as guilty before the law as the woman. By providing useful labor for all, the Soviets have done away with idleness, prostitution, unemployment, and crime, to a large extent. There are no murders, robberies, seductions, kidnappings, sex horrors nor any other of the rot which fills our papers. Russia is busy rebuilding her economy for Peace.

I wish every reader of People's Weekly would send for the free Bulletin of Information, mentioning the language desired, which is published weekly by the U.S.S.R. Embassy, Benjamin Hill, 7, Mexico City, D.F.

It is published in English, French, Spanish, Ukrainian and some other languages. It is filled with interesting pictures of Soviet industries, educational features, scientific news and all items relating to industrial, social, cultural and other features of the U.S.S.R., and is sent to all who may apply for it.

Reading this Bulletin would clear up a lot of the silly misunderstanding about Russia, and it prints no propaganda.

BERT HUFFMAN.  
Newton Station, B.C.



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## By H. ZELLA SPENCER

AND one comment more about the C.C.F. Convention and public meeting which I attended at Wainwright. And I promise you it won't be like a minister I knew who used to say, "Just one word more" and we settled back knowing he was good for another fifteen minutes. This will be my last reference to it.

You know it is said we have to make idols of our leaders, that it is a common human characteristic. Sometimes as we look about the world and study history this would seem to be case. At least if we do not wish to idolize, I think we want to regard highly our leaders and feel them men and women for whom we have admiration because of their fine qualities.

I want to tell you one little incident connected with Mr. Coldwell. And if any of you have been listening to some of the broadcasts lately you would seem the poor man needed someone to take you the cudgels for him. As I have said many times before, it seems strange that in our personal relationships we do not use the word "lie" and "liar" when talking to someone; we think it too insulting. In the political world there seems no such diffidence. I really wished I had begun counting the number of times the word "lie" was used the other night by

one political speaker when he was referring to Mr. Coldwell's statements.

However, it is not about his integrity I wish to comment; it is his kindly thoughtful consideration. Now Mr. Coldwell is a busy man with all sorts of people coming into his life and all sorts of problems being set before him so one could easily forgive his forgetting the seemingly little details.

I might say I have the misfortune to be deaf. Of course Mr. Coldwell knows it but I am sure I am not an unique friend of his in that disability. The evening when he was addressing the public meeting he was introduced by the chairman at whose right he sat. What did Mr. Coldwell do? He very unostentatiously walked to the left of the platform—I was seated at the front on that side. He began his address with the usual, "ladies and gentlemen" and then gave me almost the imperceptible nod as much as to say, "I hope you will hear."

And I said, the kindly thoughtfulness warmed my heart and the practical changing of position made it possible for me to hear every word with ease. I call that a very happy combination of the practical and the kindly, thoughtful desire to help people. Do you not agree with me that it was a very fine gesture from a man, the leader of our C.C.F.?

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Street: Treasurer, J. A. S. Smith, 11532 95A Street; Business Agent, J. P. Craig, Labor Temple.  
Garment Workers of America No. 120, United—Meets second Wednesday in each month in Labour Hall. President, Percy Williamson, 9518 106A Ave. Recording Secretary, Mrs. A. Spilch, c/o G.W.G. Co.  
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Carpenters & Joiners of America Local 1325, Edmonton, Alta. United Brotherhood of—Meets 1st and 3rd Fridays in the Labor Temple. President, J. A. Logan, 8157 Jasper Avenue; Fin. Sec'y, L. D. Pollard, 9228 10th Ave.

## PEOPLE'S WEEKLY

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## FARMERS WON'T BITE

THERE is one respect in which Social Credit spokesmen resemble the Communists. When the "party line" is laid down the boys keep strictly to it.

Some time ago it became quite clear that an anti-trade union campaign had become part of the high strategy of the Social Credit leaders. This was to take the form of all anti-Labor campaigns for the past century; attacks on leaders and organizers and an attempt to make the general public believe that the rank and file trade unionists were mere pawns used by their leaders.

Thus it was that the Minister of Public Works, speaking in Red Deer on October 13th, lashed out at strikes and said the workers in the unions were "helpless men and women browbeaten by a few." He said the activities of the unions were "an effort to impose labor totalitarianism."

The next night the Premier of the province, at a meeting called especially for the purpose, blamed labor organizational activity on "agitators" and "fomenters of industrial strife."

But often the small fry will go even a bit farther than their leaders in the employment of party propaganda. So it was not surprising to read in the *Clareholm Local Press*, that James Hartley, M.L.A. for Macleod, had carried the attack to the unions as such when he said: "In days gone by labor organizations were run to benefit the working man, today they are operated for anti-Christian organizations."

The purpose of this anti-Labor campaign is obviously twofold. It is to give assurance to the big business interests to which the Alberta government is now irrevocably committed. But it is also directed to the farm population which they believe can be persuaded that Labor—not the fifty big shots!—is the real enemy of the farmers.

The *People's Weekly* believes that the Social Credit strategists are underestimating the intelligence and knowledge of the farm people of Alberta if they think that farmers can be persuaded to get their eyes off their real enemies by an attempt to make them hate and distrust Labor.

## IT'S IN THE PEOPLE'S HANDS

IT IS difficult to believe that the people of Canada can long overlook the fact that the C.C.F. is the only political movement in Canada which fights their battle on every issue that arises.

The question of price controls is a good example. The Liberal government, supported, even pushed, by the Progressive Conservatives and the Social Crediters, dropped price controls as rapidly as it could, in spite of the disastrous effect on the standard of living of the mass of the people which was certain to follow. The C.C.F. in the House of Commons and in the country fought the removal of beneficial controls.

Because the policies of the Liberal government have brought a run-away inflation that is putting many necessities of life beyond the reach of the average family, the government has been compelled to re-impose some controls. It is thus proven that the C.C.F. was right, as it is usually right because it speaks in parliament and elsewhere with the voice of the people.

In respect to most public issues there are two opposed interests in the balance, that of special privilege and that of the mass of the people. Hitherto the people of Canada have with their own votes chosen governments which serve the interests of special privilege. They can change that situation at any election, if they will.

## REASON ENOUGH FOR A CHANGE

NOTHING could more strikingly illustrate the bumbling incompetence of the present Alberta administration than the farcical outcome of such weird deals as the Wanham clearing project and the oil sands fiasco.

Publicity enough has been given to the mix-up in the clearing project, with charges and counter-charges and the institution of legal proceedings on the part of the government against the contractor. Incidentally, the contractor in question has a much greater reputation for efficiency and business ability than the Minister of Public Works, whose inept hand is mixed up in this as in almost every other incident of glaring incapacity on the part of the administration.

And now public announcement has been made that another "baby" of Mr. Fallow's, the notorious oil sands deal, is about to end up in the law courts. It seems the government is going to sue Oil Sands Limited to get back the plant which the taxpayers have already paid \$750,000 to construct!

How much longer are the people of Alberta going to stand for the grotesque, bull-in-a-china-shop blundering of men like the Minister of Public Works? This is the man who dominates the government of the province, into whose hands \$17,000,000 of the people's money was given to spend in 1947.

Even if the basic policies of the present government were good, and they are not, the record of stupidity and incompetence in administration, as represented by the record of the Minister of Public Works, is reason enough why people are saying that it is time for a change.

## THE THIRD COLUMN

## NO DEGREE NECESSARY

"Who Owns Canada," by Watt

Hugh McCollum, Page 9:

"Of the 50 directors who control the economic life of Canada, 24 have had a university education at some time in their lives, and 25 have had some high school education, according to the biographical information available. It must be assumed, however, that these men owe their financial prominence to their university education. None of our universities as yet give graduate or post-graduate courses in stock-watering, share-splitting and proxy collecting. There has been no need for special training along these lines in the past."



## WARNS AGAINST BIG STICK

The Nation, November 15:

"Mr Dewey (Republican Governor of New York), a man who never plunges into political waters until he has received a dozen expert reports on depth and temperature, came out quite strongly for the essence of the Marshall Plan. Naturally, his advocacy of aid to 'freedom-loving peoples' was stated in terms of wholehearted condemnation of Russia—a safe line for any American politician these days—and was coupled with a number of sneers at the Truman Administration, including the strange accusation that it had given 'aid and comfort to Communist conquest.' However, New York's governor talked sense on at least one point. It would be a mistake, he said, to deny aid to countries attempting Socialist experiments. 'In the free world,' he added, 'economic systems are not all alike. We do not share the Socialist ideas prevailing in some nations and we believe some of their programs to be affirmatively dangerous. . . . I am sure in my own mind that if those nations would restore initiative and free enterprise, their progress would be immediately accelerated. But we shall not achieve that result by lecturing from afar or withholding aid if they do not change their practices.'"



## A SLIM CHANCE

The Standard, Montreal,

November 8:

"What chance has the Progressive Conservative party of forming a government after the next election?"

"From a cold statistical analysis the answer is 'none.' If the P.C.'s were to win every seat that is a 'possible,' they still would have to scrape for a bare majority. . . .

"It becomes obvious that the P.C.'s would have to take every single seat in which they had a chance at all, in order to get a majority."

"Election miracles of this order do not happen. When an election is held in 1949 or 1950, the P.C.'s again will win only a minority group of seats in the Commons."

"Most P.C. leaders, including John Bracken, know this. That is why they no longer think in terms of forming the government. Rather they look to a future in which the seats will be so split that the Liberals will be forced into a federal coalition."

"Such coalitions now exist in B.C. and Manitoba. Could it happen in Ottawa? As some influential P.C.'s say, it is their party's big hope."

## FOOTPRINTS

## The Time Is Now

By J. P. Griffin

"For no man liveth to himself"

LET anyone who doubts the above statement try to number the people who had a hand in preparing the food he ate for breakfast or the coffee he sipped it down with.

In spite of our obvious dependence upon the efforts of our fellowmen, Canadian economy is being organized more and more into pressure groups which will compete with others in suicidal savagery for security at their neighbor's expense. Stuart Chase in his "Democracy Under Pressure" has pointed out that "the depression should have provided proof enough that Americans are tied together in a single organism, —the pressure boys act as though they had never heard of this state of affairs. They think that they can kick their way through the delicate veins, nerves, and tendons of an interdependent community and get theirs."

The day has passed when every man carried a club or some other weapon with which to threaten his competitors. Men have realized that in asserting their right to attack others they imply that others have a right to attack them, and that there is no security against bodily assault to be found in either assumption. Personal violence is now frowned upon in the best circles, so we evade our responsibilities and increase our personal effectiveness by becoming members of organized pressure groups. The wages of sin however is still death, and although cancerous competitive cells may flourish in great abundance for a while, the decay of the social body is fully

assured by their collective pressure and its agony consequently prolonged.

In a capitalist economy then the day by day struggle for existence becomes transferred from the personal level to the plane of organized group resistance. If Big Business has the right or organize as part of its "free enterprise," then so, too, has Labor and Agriculture. The citizens thus banded together however, who still worship the blood-stained idol of Profits, have no more reason to remain indifferent to the shattering effects of their group activities than they would have if they had not taken shelter within that group but had gone themselves "all out" to murder their competitor on his own doorstep.

If instead of this industrial anarchy you would like to see a Co-operative Commonwealth in Canada, a society in which organized groups of people would advise a helpful and friendly Government, in which Labor, Industry and Agriculture would co-operate for the common good instead of competing to our common ruin, then you are ready to become a member of the C.C.F.

Socialism will always welcome advice from organizations which alone know and can present to the Government the problems that affect their welfare. It will not tolerate pressure groups that war upon the public good in pursuit of private advantage, and that are therefore as completely unchristian as were our ancestors who hit each other over the head with stone axes as an expression of their devotion to "free enterprise."

## A Basis For A New Social Order

By J. E. COOK

President, Alberta C.C.F.

THE C.C.F. expects criticism. Members of the C.C.F. expect members of other political beliefs to criticize the very basis of our beliefs and certainly our policies. A convention has just closed. There is no doubt about the definiteness of the proposals. The convention thoroughly discussed in five different and different phases of our proposals. There is a simplicity about the statements from this convention that makes them mean what they say.

But there is in them the basis for a new social order. And anything new will arouse a deal of criticism and fear. But the C.C.F. is prepared for that attack and prepared to justify the need for its proposals on the basis of world and local conditions.

## A Hodge-Podge

It is not good enough to say that there is a great industrial machine in this country, on this continent and in the world. The fact is that there is no such thing. There is a hodge-podge of industrial empires that have a definite purpose but no proper cohesion. The result is surpluses of luxury goods and shortages of necessities. There is almost never any real relation between supply and demand.

But it would not be orthodox to imagine that business, which is the business of living, should be made simple and natural. That would destroy the mystery and the hocus-pocus of management.

## Belong to the People

The present proposals state simply that the natural resources, placed where they are, belong to all the people all the time. The effort of making them useful must

be recompensed in a proper relation to services of other nature, and to bring about proper distribution of the finished product. This will bring real criticism.

It is a long time since it was made the basis of any serious contention that people had any more rights than they were prepared to establish by priority of some nature, usually special privilege.

There will be plenty of criticism. But the most naive, the most whimpering effort in the line of criticism that has so far appeared, was an effort by the Edmonton Journal of Monday, Nov. 24th.

Premier Douglas of Saskatchewan was here and spoke on Thursday. Premier Douglas made out a good case for his C.C.F. government and it was easy for the people there to believe that what Douglas said was true. It is a good story he tells, and very pleasing to people who want to see something new and different tried.

## Free Treatment

But the Journal thinks it is unfair. The Journal seems to think that Premier Douglas should have boosted for the Social Credit gov-

(Continued on Page 6)

## C.C.F. RADIO TALKS

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# Mary Crawford Heads New Provincial Women's Group

## RUTH CHERRY SPEAKER

Miss Mary R. Crawford of Edmonton was elected president of the newly formed C.C.F. Provincial Women's Committee when out-of-town women delegates attending the C.C.F. convention in the city were guests of the Edmonton C.C.F. Women's Club at a banquet and meeting in the Embassy Room.

Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A., C.C.F. Provincial Leader; A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., Calgary; Mr. J. E. Cook, provincial president, and A. M. Nicholson, M.P., were also special guests.

**Women Report**  
 The new organization, which will be integrated into the provincial and federal constituency set-up and which will have a representative on the provincial board, will co-ordinate C.C.F. women's activities throughout the province and carry on educational and organization work. Miss Crawford and Mrs. Nellie Peterson, 1st vice-president of the Alberta C.C.F., spoke briefly on the need for such an organization.

Reports on the work of women's groups were given by Mrs. G. Y. MacPhee, Camrose C.C.F. Women's Club; Miss Ruth Cherry, Calgary C.C.F. Women's Club; and Mrs. H. Scott, Edmonton C.C.F. Women's Club. Miss Jean Dixon reported on C.C.F. student activities at the University of Alberta, and Mrs. Jean Neely on the New Commonwealth Club.

**Ruth Cherry Speaks**  
 Miss Ruth Cherry, Calgary school teacher who spent the past year in England, told of the important place women occupy in the British Labor Party organization. British Labor women assisted greatly during elections by canvassing the electorate, she said. She mentioned the town of Jarrow where 36,000 out of 46,000 voters were personally canvassed in the by-election made necessary by the death of Ellen Wilkinson, the sitting member.

**Everyone Treated Alike**  
 She pointed out that the Labor Party laid great stress on its educational policy and sponsored schools for both men and women. Miss Cherry told of a week-end school which she had attended at the home of Sir Chas. Trevelyan, where Dr. Strauss, M.P., was the lecturer. The wives of miners, farmers and shopkeepers who attended the school were then in a position to go out and do educational work in their communities and answer criticisms directed against the Labor government. It was brought out at one of these lectures, said Miss Cherry, that the people of Britain were consuming 38% more milk in 1947 than they did in 1939. Different people were consuming it of



MARY R. CRAWFORD

course, she pointed out. As was the case with food, clothing and other essentials, everyone was now getting their fair share, she explained.

The speaker described a women's gala at Durham. Prime Minister Attlee was the guest speaker on this occasion and he and Mrs. Attlee led the parade of 10,000 women through the streets of this old cathedral town. Comparing this event with one which she witnessed in 1939 at the height of the depression, Miss Cherry said the women were well-dressed in spite of austerity rations.

The new privileged class in Britain today are the children and babies, the speaker explained. They enjoy extra allowances of milk and orange juice and are a bonny health group.

Much hard devoted work went into the winning of elections in Britain, Miss Cherry said. "If the same effort were put forth by C.C.F. people in Alberta they, too, could elect a people's government."

Mrs. Uri Powell of Sexsmith was the winner of the quilt donated by Mrs. D. J. Christie. Mrs. Edith Rogers, president of the Edmonton Women's C.C.F. Club, presided.

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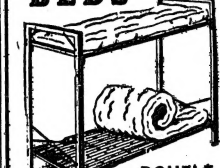
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NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having claims upon the estate of the above named George Henry Fogarty, who died on the 6th day of September, A.D. 1947, are required to file with the undersigned solicitors by the 31st day of December, A.D. 1947, a full statement duly verified of their claims and of any securities held by them, and that after that date the Executors will distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto having regard only to the claims of which notice has been so filed or which have been brought to their knowledge.

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**ARMY & NAVY**

# Whose "Eyewash"?

Radio Talk by Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A.

"WHAT'S in a name?" so wrote a fellow named Shakespeare about three hundred and fifty years ago. "That which we call a rose," he said, "by any other name would smell as sweet."

And I am going to suggest that by the same token, twenty-eight and a half million dollars is twenty-eight and a half million dollars, no matter what you call it. I was amazed the other day to read a report of a radio address by the Premier of the province, in which he was alleged to have said that I was dealing in "unadulterated eyewash" (whatever that is) when I had said that the government in the refunding deal had paid to the bondholders all of the interest withheld by the government during the years in which it was paying only half the interest.

## No "Eyewash"

Now what I did say was that the government paid to the bondholders, in back interest and so-called "premium adjustments," an amount equal to all the interest which was withheld during the time when only half the interest

was being paid. And there is no "eyewash" about that, adulterated or unadulterated.

The total amount of unpaid interest at the time the refunding deal was completed was twenty-eight and a half million dollars. Speaking in the House of Commons in 1946, the then Minister of Finance, Mr. Hsley, said the federal government was making certain concessions to Alberta in connection with the refunding deal because the Alberta government had agreed to pay up all the back interest.

## Exactly the Same

But the Alberta government had said that it would not pay up all the back interest. So what did it do in the refunding deal? Well, it paid something over twenty-two million in back interest, and then paid an additional six millions in what is called "premium adjustments."

And by an amazing coincidence, it just happened that the amount of back interest paid, plus these "premium adjustments," turned out to be exactly the same as the total amount of the unpaid interest. So it was still twenty-eight and a half million dollars, and it was still an amount equal to all the unpaid interest, and any eyewash employed in the description of the deal is that used by the government in an attempt to blur the sight of the Alberta people who paid the shot.

## Clumsy Subterfuge

Now it is not surprising that the government by a clumsy subterfuge wants to make the people of Alberta believe that it did not give the bondholders their full pound of flesh. You see, back in 1940 the government in the election campaign told the people that it had "saved" them twelve million dollars by paying only half the interest. And again in 1944 it told the people that it had "saved" them twenty-five million dollars by paying only half the interest.

## Attempt To Cover Up

So when it decided to give the bondholders all that was due them, to the very last cent, it had to do something to cover the thing up. So instead of paying twenty-eight and a half million dollars and calling it all back interest, it paid twenty-eight and a half million dollars and called part of it back interest and the rest of it

# On National Council



W. W. SCOTT, Lethbridge, who was elected to represent Alberta on the C.C.F. National Council.



CLIFFORD E. LEE, who along with Mr. Scott will represent Alberta on the C.C.F. National Council.

"premium adjustments." Just like that. And if that isn't the sort of slick manoeuvring that could be called "unadulterated eyewash"—well, brother, you name it.

## Full Pound of Flesh

I repeat that in the refunding deal the government paid to the bondholders an amount equal to every cent of the interest withheld during the time when only half the interest was being paid. The twenty-five million dollars which the people were told had been "saved" by withholding half the interest for nine years, in the end was not saved at all. The bondholders got their full pound of flesh, and some dessert thrown in.

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# Britain's New Budget

By Lorne Ingle

FOOD subsidies are to be maintained in Britain in contrast to the program of the Liberal Government in Canada which has been removing subsidies on milk, butter, bread and other essential food stuffs, and thus increasing many times over the Canadian cost-of-living.



Labor Government in 'Britain is continuing to pay the food subsidies to keep the cost of living down'

The British government is doing this in spite of the fact that the cost is \$1,568,000,000 a year—the cost going up because of the rising prices of the imported food products which Britain has to buy from Canada and the United States. The British Government is making a courageous effort to protect the British consumer from the rising prices in Canada and the United States.

## Not Enough Goods

One of the pressures tending to force prices up in Britain is the shortage of goods in relation to the amount of purchasing power. As Mr. Dalton put it: "Too much money running around after too few goods is the unavoidable sequel in every country affected by a major war." That situation always means higher prices.

The best answer, of course, is to increase the quantity of goods by producing more and this Britain is straining every muscle to do. In spite of the government's best efforts in this direction, however, a great deal of inflationary monetary pressure continues.

Capitalist critics have demanded that the government tax the people more so that they would have less to spend reducing the demand and thus relieving the pressure for higher prices. That is one way of reducing the surplus of dollars. But Labor's Chancellor of the Exchequer chose other ways:

## He doubled the tax on profits.

He taxed the gamblers by imposing a tax on the football pools and the dog races. He increased the taxes on whisky and beer. In a measure to curb un-economical and excessive advertising costs, a provision was made under which only half of

the cost of advertising will be allowed as a business expenditure to be set off against taxes. But there were no increases in the income tax.

On the expenditure side the Chancellor calculated on spending \$20,000,000 to make good last winter's agricultural disaster caused by heavy snows and subsequent floods. The Labor Government is making every effort to see that the country as a whole, and not the farmers alone, bear nature's calamity. Other millions have to be appropriated by the Ministry of Food to pay higher prices for food than were estimated earlier this year owing to world shortages and the higher prices of Canadian and American goods.

## No Idle Dukes

On the production front the Labor Government has taken steps to ensure that every able-bodied person does his share. A measure has been passed to prevent the 'drones' the idle rich—from doing no productive work while living in luxury. Lords and barons, dukes and society maidens will have to get out and do their stint.

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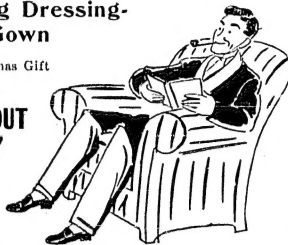
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## Labor Doings

By ED. SARMAN

The taxi drivers are finally to be granted the 48-hour week. This is definite.

The Edmonton City Dairy Union Committee has negotiated an addition in the form of a cost of living bonus, adjustable every three months. The starting point will be \$6.50 per month, beginning November 1st.

The inside staff of the N.A.D.P. has been offered an increase of 5c per hour plus a cost of living bonus of 2½c per hour. This is a company counter-proposal to an original demand of an increase of 20c per hour, which was later modified to 15c per hour in return for the company's consideration of a six month extension to the present agreement which would bring the Dairy Pool inside staff agreement in line with the termination date of all other dairy agreements.

## Breaking New Land in Saskatchewan



TORONTO (CPA)—In Saskatchewan little new land remains to be broken, but there are still small areas in the park country which can be cleared of scrub and plowed up. Time was when this was a laborious business with a six-horse team and a clumsy walking plow, hard on horses and men. Today's rig is a crawler tractor and two-bottom plow, easily handled by one man, and efficient in every way. It's still a rough job, as can be gathered from the picture, but the land is usually fertile and roots and scrub soon rot and are worked in. Photo shows Harold Morrell, Jr., breaking out a bluff on his farm near Qu'Appelle, Sask.

## 89 Boroughs

(Continued from page 1)

tion of the net losses this year the Labor Party still retains considerably more than half of the gains which have been made since 1945. And the party has not yet lost a parliamentary by-election.

The Labor Party has now lost control of 24 English and Welsh towns, and in seven others Labor majorities have been so reduced that the voting strength of Labor and anti-Labor forces in the councils is equal.

### Gain 5 Seats

With a gain of five seats Labor has regained control of the council at Llanelly (Wales), and a gain of one seat at Bootle (Lancashire) gives Labor equal voting strength with the anti-Labor forces.

The Labor Party still retains its control of 89 English and Welsh boroughs.

In many parts of the country the vigorous Conservative assault failed to make any impression whatever and Labor held its ground and gained a few seats. The steel city of Sheffield stood

firm and a large Labor majority was increased by four more gains. With the exception of one year this city has been under Labor control since 1926.

### Exploit Discontent

All over the country the Conservative propaganda sought to magnify and exploit the popular discontent and grumbling about shortages, low rations and the other unavoidable hardships which Britain, like many other war-stricken countries, is suffering.

This type of Conservative propaganda failed miserably in those heavy industrial and mining areas where workers still remember suffering even worse shortages and hardships under Conservative Governments during the depression years.

The poll was much higher than is usual in municipal elections. In many towns the Labor vote increased. Very often Labor councillors who were defeated actually polled a higher vote than they did when they won their seats. But they lost because the Conservatives increased their vote substantially. It is widely believed here that the poll was higher because many

middle class housewives, who had not taken the trouble to vote in previous elections, suddenly turned out to register their discontent with the shortages and hardships and ration cuts by voting against the Labor candidates.

For more than 12 months the whole capitalist press has been conducting a campaign against the Labor Party which exceeds in bitterness and extent anything previously known before.

The Labor Party will now take steps to launch a greater counter-offensive in this propaganda war.

The teacher had a lot of clerical work to do, so she placed her hat in front of the class of six-year-olds, saying, "Now, children, I want you to look at my hat, and write some nice little sentences about it."

The class set to work, and were silent for quite five minutes. Then a face appeared at the teacher's desk, and Edward's voice was heard:

"Please miss, are there two 'b's' in shabby?"

## Sins of the Fathers

By CLIFFORD E. LEE

WOMEN and children were once used in the mines of England to move the coal to the surface. Their size was an advantage in the crooked tunnels often so low that they worked on their hands and knees to pull the baskets of coal out to the shaft. Mining in England is, of course, much better than that today. But much of it is still generations behind other industry in the adoption of modern machinery. The reasons hold lessons and the consequences may affect for a generation our lives on the other side of an ocean.

Democratic socialism will be judged on this continent by the speed of recovery in England. And that in turn is tied up with coal production, for to a degree often unappreciated here, coal is vital in Britain.

There will be cold homes in England this winter because of shortage of fuel. That will be the endurance of the people who withstood the bombings of the Luftwaffe at their worst. But in a land without significant water-power, coal is the fuel of the electric generators, the railroad trains, and the great blast furnaces that produce steel, most important material in modern society. And coal is one raw material that England has in such quantity that she might export it to pay for goods from the other countries of Europe.

So it is this black stuff that turns the wheels of factory and transport. Coal is the key to recovery in England and consequently to the immediate attitude of half the world towards democratic socialism as an economic principle. But reasons for failures in coal production go back beyond the immediate past. If the British economy collapses it will not be because of their socialism of today but of their capitalism yesterday.

There are only about three-fourths as many men producing coal now as there were before the first Great War, and they are older men. Conditions in the mines for generations have been such that miners determined that their sons should find something better. The Labor government has succeeded in stemming the stream of men leaving the mines. This in itself is a notable achievement in view of the fact that this drift from mining has been going on steadily for many years.

### Antiquated Methods

A man working a day in the mines produces little more than the same amount of coal he produced thirty-five years ago. It would be difficult to name another industry which in that period has so failed to improve its techniques. An American miner produces about fifteen times as much coal in the same period as does a British miner. A lot is made of this in the irresponsible U.S. press.

It should be noted that American mines are only about 200 feet deep, while the British ones go down from 1,200 to 3,000 feet.

A fairer comparison is with the mines of other countries where natural factors are somewhat equivalent, as they are or were in Germany and Holland. In 1926 English production per man was higher than in either of these countries. But in the dozen years which followed, the Dutch and Germans both nationalized their mines and modernized their equipment. The British kept their hackled and antiquated in the hands of Free Enterprise that refused to be enterprising. In that period British production per man increased only 14%. But German production per man almost doubled and that of the Dutch more than doubled.

Britain's was an example of the danger of Free Enterprise in a key and vital industry. By its very nature it sabotaged the economy of the nation. It was simply thought a better investment to put money into tea in India, for instance, than into modern equipment for the mines at home; more profitable to keep mining a depressed industry of obsolete machinery and sweatshop conditions than to expend the capital sums required to straighten out the tortuous shafts and drifts and install electric power and coal-cutting machines. Enough coal was provided for a decaying capitalism but it falls far short for the needs of a nation vibrant with new ideals.

It takes many years to modernize huge coal workings. So the socialism of today gambles its existence on penalties for the capitalism of yesterday.

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## PERSONAL STUFF

(Continued from Page 1)  
was devoted to a splendid expression of C.C.F. basic and immediate aims. It was a great convention.

There have been few political meetings in Edmonton which created greater enthusiasm than the one addressed by Premier T. C. Douglas of Saskatchewan. Well over two hundred people who were crowded out of the main auditorium in which the meeting was held, heard the speaker through a public address system as they gathered in an overflow meeting in another room. And Douglas was at his best, which is to say that no better speech had ever been heard by that big audience. The story of what has been done in Saskatchewan in a little more than three years, starting from scratch, is a thrilling one. And none is quicker than the Saskatchewan Premier to acknowledge that Alberta, with its vastly richer resources, could soon surpass the record of his government, if a C.C.F. administration were in office in this province. I have been impressed many times with the possibilities of two such governments in adjoining provinces working together to the mutual advantage of each. Mr. Douglas mentioned that, too.

Have you noticed those columns of names acknowledging receipt of contributions to the deficit fund? The response to our letter sent out to the membership has been the most heartening experience we have had in many a day. I couldn't begin to tell you how much I personally appreciate it. Somehow I felt that all we needed to do was take the members into our confidence, tell them that we were facing a deficit because the provincial office had spent more on organization work than we'd received money to pay for, and ask each member to send in a dollar to ensure the movement going into 1948 with a clean slate. The response has been magnificent. Somehow I have the feeling that just about every single person to whom the letter went will send in his or her dollar. No wonder we had a good convention, when the C.C.F. in Alberta is made up of people like that!

## "Austerity" to

(Continued from Page 1)  
countless smaller articles which enter into present-day living.

The answer to this aspect of the problem is price control. A public clamor is swelling for price control. But everything the government has said so far indicates that they do not intend to take this step which has become so obviously necessary as a result of their restrictive program.

Typical was the answer of Mr. Douglas Abbott, minister of finance, when he was pressed by newsmen for his opinion about the scarcity of oranges this winter. "Oh I expect there'll be a

scramble for them," Mr. Abbott said jauntily.

And in the scramble, the children of working class people, and the hospital inmates who especially need oranges, will have to take their chances according to best "free enterprise" practice.

OTTAWA (CPA).—"If nothing else is done (when Parliament meets in December) price controls and consumer subsidies must be restored," Freeman Jenkins, president of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, wrote in an open letter to Prime Minister Mackenzie King received here last week.

Mr. Jenkins quoted figures issued by the federal Department of Labor showing "that the ability of the people to buy their needs declined in 1946 more than 6% from 1945."

"During 1946, average per capita food consumption declined by 3.5%; and that of the low paid wage earners by very much more, quite probably by 15%," Mr. Jenkins said.

"These facts surely must persuade all of us that price controls together with consumer subsidies must be restored without delay."

Ever since the war, the interests of profit-seeking business appear to have had precedence over the welfare of the people. "This, we urge you, must be reversed,"

## CCF Government

(Continued from page 1)  
dates to the audience: Raymond Schmidt, Rocky Mountain House; John Hannechock, Beaver River; Joe Peterson, Macleod; A. D. Olsen, Ponoka; Charles Boulter, Camrose; Alfred Arntson, Clover Bar; Leslie Harris, Grande Prairie; Geo. McFall, Cypress; Robert Carlyle, Lacombe; Uri Powell, Spirit River; Martin Fjelstad, Pembina; Mrs. Nellie Peterson, Lac Ste. Anne; Stewart Wright, Wainwright and Geo. Davies, Alexandra. Paul Rowe, Peace River, was unable to be present at the meeting. A. M. Nicholson, M.P. also spoke briefly.

**Give People Security**  
Premier Douglas reminded the audience that the C.C.F. government had only been elected to power in Saskatchewan in 1944 following 34 years of Liberal administration. Insofar as it was within its constitutional power to do so, the C.C.F. government had given security to the farmer on his farm and the worker in his home, he said. After three years of C.C.F. administration he could go back to the people and say: "Not a single farmer or homeowner who has made an appeal to the Saskatchewan government for protection, has lost either his home or his farm." He pointed out that the farm mortgage debt had been decreased in two and a half years from \$309,000,000 to \$97,000,000.

**Workers' Benefits**  
The Trade Union Act gave security to the worker in his job and the right to bargain collectively,

he said. The act makes it mandatory for the employer to bargain with any agency named by 51 per cent of the workers. It provided also for the check-off and two weeks holiday with pay. Saskatchewan also provided the highest workmen's compensation in the Dominion, the highest minimum wage as well as the 44-hour week. Trade union membership had increased by 60 per cent during the three years of C.C.F. administration.

**Educational Security**  
Young people too were given greater educational security, he explained. The objective was to give every child an equal chance to get an education. This was being accomplished through provision for free text books, larger school units, equalization grants and scholarships. Premier Douglas told of his pride in hearing the president of Saskatchewan University announce at convocation that "for the first time in the history of Saskatchewan and because of the policies of the present government no child needs to be without a university education who has the intelligence to absorb it."

In pointing to the emphasis which the Saskatchewan government placed on security for the people, Premier Douglas referred to the provision made for those who because of age or sickness were unable to provide for themselves.

**Free Cancer Treatment**  
He mentioned the completely free cancer program whereby any person suffering or suspected of suffering from cancer would receive completely free whatever treatment was required to effect a cure or ease suffering. This included surgery, X-ray, and whatever other treatment was prescribed by the physician and surgeon. 11,000 had gone through the clinics last year he said and the death rate was beginning to drop. It was found that 48% of the cases coming to the clinic were not malignant but pre-cancerous and therefore amenable to treatment.

**Old Age Pensions**  
When the C.C.F. government took office, the average old age pension was \$17.55 in Saskatchewan, the speaker pointed out. Old age pensioners were now paid \$30 a month plus free health services, dental care including dentures, drugs and free hospitalization. The premier reminded the audience that at the 1945 dominion-provincial conference the dominion government agreed to take over all old age pensions provided the provinces gave up certain tax rights. Saskatchewan asked the federal authorities to raise the pension to \$50 and indicated its willingness to pay its share. A proposal to raise the pension to \$50 was turned down in the federal house. If the dominion government persists in evading its responsibility, the Saskatchewan government may have to recommend to the next legislature that the increase be paid out of provincial funds, he declared. If Saskatchewan must assume this federal responsibility, then, he said, there will be that much less to spend on crippled people and others who must depend on provincial assistance.

**Auto Insurance**  
The speaker drew attention to Saskatchewan's excellent government automobile insurance scheme with rates ranging from \$4.50 to \$6.00 plus \$1.00 for a driver's license. It protects every person who drives or rides in a Saskatchewan car as well as the person who may be struck by that car. It provides for death benefits up to \$10,000 as well as all funeral expenses. Generous allowance is also made for personal injury. "Our people appreciate the fact," said the premier, "that they have today the cheapest protection for people driving cars to be found anywhere in the world." The insurance plan is, he said, a demonstration of the fact that by co-operative action the people can pool their meagre resources and thereby enjoy a measure of collective security that wouldn't otherwise be possible.

**Health Services**  
He commended the hospital plan which provides hospitalization for all residents of Saskatchewan for \$5.00 a year. "We are pointing to the place where we can add medical and dental care until we come to the goal where every person will have all health services they need irrespective of their ability to pay," the Saskatchewan premier declared.

Critics had declared that the C.C.F. government would raise taxes, go into debt and destroy the credit of the province. Mr. Douglas reminded the audience. The C.C.F. administration was able to point to the fact however that they had collected \$1,404,000 less in taxes than the Liberal government.

**Reduce Debt**  
With regard to the criticism that the C.C.F. would pile up debts, the premier drew attention to the fact that under the Liberal regime nobody paid off debts, they merely refunded them. The bondholders were therefore shocked when the C.C.F. paid off in three years \$28,000,000 of bonded indebtedness incurred by the former Liberal regime. Altogether the government had reduced the bonded debt to some \$72,000,000. "And," he added, "the market value of the credit of the province either Saskatchewan bonds which sold for around 91 are now selling for 114 and 116."

In reply to the question, "where does the money come from?" Premier Douglas told the audience, "we get it from the people who have it."

**For the People**  
"We in the C.C.F. believe," he said, "that the natural resources were not put there by man but by the Creator and belong to all the people. If any individual or groups exploit those resources then they must pay something into the public treasury to pay for it." One such corporation which formerly paid only \$70,000 now pays at the time of \$1,250,000, he recalled.

**Buy Power Lines**  
Saskatchewan also got revenue to carry on its social services by developing industries on a co-operative ownership basis. He instanced the case of power development. The government has bought up one by one the power companies of the province until today every major facility for generating power is owned by the people. In the last three years the govern-

ment has reduced power rates three times and shown profits in excess of a half million dollars a year.

In regard to transportation the government took the position that if the people built and kept the highways in repair they should operate their own transportation system. The efficient government-owned bus service is now giving more and better service and is making a substantial profit, he said.

In addition to automobile insurance the government has cut rates on general insurance with profits going into the treasury. He pointed out that by arrangement, the co-operatives are handling life insurance.

**Stop Exploitation**  
Big timber operators who have been riding on the backs of the people don't like walking now said the premier, in explaining the new set-up under a timber board whereby the people, who cut the timber get a fair reward for their labor. The government had adopted the same policy in regard to the fish and fur industry so that people employed in these industries were now amply rewarded and big corporations were no longer free to deplete the resources.

The government had bought up airport stations and constructed apartments for returned men. It had cleared one-quarter million acres of land in northern Saskatchewan and made it available to returned men on a payment basis of one-eighth of crop.

**Public Utility**  
"Another thing we have guaranteed the people," he said, "is that when the time comes to pipe natural gas for fuel purposes it will be done as a public utility so the people will not have to pay through the nose for burning their own gas."

He hoped that some day it would be possible to build a great pipeline across the prairies supplying gas to towns and cities. This, he stated, could only be done as a public utility either at cost or profit to the public treasury.

"We look upon a political platform as marching orders which the people give to their political representatives," he said in telling the audience that the government had fulfilled every one of its pledges embodied in its nine-point election program.

## C.C.F.'ER IMPRESSED BY SWEDISH SCENE

Ole Soderquist has returned from a trip to his native Sweden. At a recent Valleyview CCF club meeting he gave some of his impressions as follows:

Outstanding was the general feeling of security and well-being with no fear of boom and depression. All are looked after from the cradle to the grave. The joy and fullness of life bursts forth in gaiety and song. Drunkenness is on the decrease, a marked improvement since his recollections as a young man.

**Co-ops Strong**  
The co-operative movement is strong and very efficient. It completely checks monopolies and cartels. No foreign capital now operates in Sweden. The government represents all parties, those of the extreme left, the middle and the right. But the middle or Social democratic party predominates. He found this to be almost identical with our Canadian moderate socialist party—the CCF. The Social Democrats had kept Sweden out of World War II and directs the general policies of the nation. The Swedish people have great admiration for the British Labor government and confidence in its out-riding its present difficulties, he said. Mr. Soderquist is so intrigued with what he has seen, that he is trying to dispose of his Alberta holdings and return to the homeland.

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**Woman:** "Yes, he's upstairs."

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